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REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ACCREDITED PROGRAM IN DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION.

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Descriptors-*ACCREDITATION (INSTITUTIONS), *DENTAL HYGIENISTS, *HEALTH OCCUPATIONS EDUCATION, *PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Dental hygiene programs should operate on a nonprofit basis as departments, divisions, schools, or colleges of a parent institution of higher learning approved or eligible for approval by agencies recognized by the National Commission on Accreditation. Provision should be made for liaison with the dental profession. The physical plant should meet the requirements of the institution's objectives and be adequate for the student enrollment. The library collection should include books and periodicals on dentistry, dental hygiene, allied health sciences, the physical and biological sciences, and liberal arts. Minimum admission requirements should include completion of a 4-year high school college preparatory program or its equivalent. High school and college records and performance on standardized tests should be evaluated. The length of the program should be at least 2 academic years and the curriculum, which should be flexible and provide for introducing new concepts, should include liberal arts, the sciences, and dental hygiene. Faculty, including a supervising dentist and dental hygienists, should be qualified in their areas of responsibility and adequate in numbers for the enrollment. (JK)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION Chicago, Ill.
Council on Dental Education.

ED022882

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ACCREDITED PROGRAM IN DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION

(As approved by the House of Delegates, Nov., 1965)

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Statement of General Policy: It is the responsibility of the Council on Dental Education to administer the following principles and requirements. Although the primary purpose of the Council is accreditation, in fulfilling this function it will undertake to aid institutions in strengthening their educational programs. The final appraisal of each program in dental hygiene education will be determined in the light of its total educational effort.

The Council will expect an accredited program in dental hygiene education to be established on a nonprofit basis, affiliated with or conducted by a dental school or other responsible institution of higher learning approved or eligible for approval by an accrediting agency recognized by the National Commission on Accrediting.

Developing programs in dental hygiene education will be evaluated only at the request of the parent institution. Institutions desiring accreditation will be asked at an early stage of development to provide the Council with detailed reports and basic information pertinent to organization and administration, physical plant, enrollment, library, admissions, curriculum, faculty and financial support for the proposed program. If the plan of operation appears to satisfy the Council's published requirements, an accreditation visit will be scheduled when the program is in full operation and prior to graduation of the initial class; and thereafter, at intervals determined by the Council.

The Council publishes a periodic listing of accredited programs in dental hygiene education, classifying those programs in full operation as either approved or provisionally approved. Developing programs are eligible for preliminary provisional approval. It is emphasized that both approved and provisionally approved programs satisfy minimum educational requirements of the Council. Provisional approval indicates certain correctable weaknesses or deficiencies which precluded full approval at the time of evaluation. Despite these weaknesses, however, the program was considered to fulfill minimum requirements for accreditation. Provisional approval will remain in effect until program weaknesses have been corrected and verified by an additional resurvey.

Students graduated from provisionally approved programs in dental hygiene education are, in the opinion of the Council, eligible for state and National Board examinations.

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Organization and Administration: A program in dental hygiene education should be a recognized department, division, school or college of the parent institution. In both structure and administration the program should be conducted in accordance with the general policies of the parent institution. In all instances, however, provision should be made in the dental hygiene education program for effective liaison with the dental profession.

A dental hygiene program administrator should have responsibility and authority equal to that accorded other administrators conducting comparable programs at the parent institution. The administrator or director of the program should have educational qualifications and experience in administration to understand and to implement the objectives of a program in dental hygiene education. The Council will expect to find the program's internal administration organized so that duties, functions and responsibilities of all staff members are clearly defined.

Physical Plant: The physical plant and equipment should be adequate to meet the requirements implied in the institution's objectives. Examination of the physical plant and equipment will include consideration of buildings, classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, clinics, and their equipment; ventilation, heating, lighting, cleanliness and other features which contribute to effective functioning.

The number of students enrolled in a dental hygiene education program should be in keeping with its physical facilities, its faculty and administrative personnel. The Council will regard overcrowding in any class or in the institution as a whole as a factor operating against the attainment of sound objectives.

Library: The library facility may be maintained separately or in connection with the library of the parent institution. It should be generously supported and efficiently administered. The collection should have up-to-date reference texts on dentistry, dental hygiene, allied health sciences and related areas of physical science, biological science and liberal arts. The periodical section should include recognized dental and dental hygiene publications and those of various allied health fields. Current health pamphlets, brochures, guides and teaching aids should be available.

Admission: Minimum admission requirements include completion of a four-year high school college preparatory course (or its equivalent) which permits entrance to an accredited college of liberal arts. The admissions committee will be expected to evaluate the high school and college record of the applicant from the standpoint of

scope and quality of scholarship, performance on standardized tests and other factors which may assist in final admission determination.

Curriculum: Education and training should prepare the dental hygienist for a role as a member of the dental health team. Even though the hygienist is responsible to the dentist and works under his direction, the services are professional in nature.

The Council believes that the curriculum for a dental hygiene education program should be appropriately balanced between liberal arts, the sciences and clinical dental hygiene; and should be designed to emphasize the interrelationships of these components. The curriculum should be structured to permit flexibility and to embody advances and changes in concepts pertinent to dental hygiene education. The curriculum should be predicated upon and related to the broad aims and purposes of dental hygiene education.

The achievement of the objectives of the program, without the establishment of uniformity, is encouraged. In the evaluation of a curriculum, reliance will not be placed upon arbitrary patterns, rigid standards or quantitative means of measurement alone. Curriculum experimentation is encouraged.

A minimum of two academic years is required for an accredited dental hygiene curriculum. Instruction leading to a certificate and/or degree in dental hygiene should prepare the graduate for competence in the field of dental hygiene. The Council recognizes the trend toward longer curriculums leading to the baccalaureate or higher degree. Degree programs, in the Council's view, will enable dental hygiene to develop appropriate research programs and better serve the public in education and dental public health.

An acceptable dental hygiene education program should include the following subject areas as they relate to dental hygiene:

Anatomy (gross and microscopic)
Chemistry
Dental Materials
Embryology
Microbiology
Nutrition
Pathology
Pharmacology
Physiology
Radiology
Tooth Morphology

The following subject areas also should be included in the dental hygiene education program:

Chairside Dental Assisting
Clinical Dental Hygiene
Dental Health Education
English (written and oral)
Ethics
History and Jurisprudence
Medical and Dental Emergencies
Orientation to Dental Practice and Office Procedures
Psychology
Public Health
Sociology

Program administrators should not interpret these subject areas as denoting or describing titles of specific courses in the dental hygiene curriculum.

Instruction within the dental hygiene curriculum should include lectures, seminars and conferences, laboratory experience and clinical practice under supervision. Thoroughness of accomplishment in the academic and laboratory requirements and competency in clinical skill will be definite factors in evaluation of the curriculum.

Faculty: The faculty of an education program in dental hygiene must be adequate in size for the number of students enrolled and shall include the services of a supervising dentist. The faculty should be well qualified in their specific areas of responsibility. Dental hygienists should be an integral part of the teaching staff.

It is expected that a nucleus of full-time faculty will be responsible for all phases of the preclinical and clinical instruction, although part-time teachers may be employed. All faculty members should be familiar with and have an understanding of the objectives of dental hygiene education. The Council will be concerned about the time available to the full-time faculty to continue their scholarly development.

Level of Instruction: The Council will expect the curriculum for a dental hygiene certificate to be at a level comparable to the Associate degree programs offered by an accredited junior college or to the first two years of education offered in a baccalaureate program of study. It is expected that credits for a significant number of courses will be transferable toward a baccalaureate degree.